

Message Text

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00396 01 OF 02 170546Z

17

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 NEA-07 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06

AID-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /042 W

----- 111418

O R 170435Z FEB 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6084

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI IMMEDIATE

JCS

SECDEF

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0396

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, OREP, PFOR, VS, US

SUBJECT: RETURN OF MARINE BODIES FROM VIET-NAM/STAFFDEL

DEHAAN

REF: A) STATE 005376 (091516Z JAN 76), B) STATE 037648

(161621Z FEB 76)

SUMMARY. THROUGH UNHCR WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT VIETNAMESE EXPECT SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF MEMBERS DEHAAN AND TINKER TO ARRIVE IN HANOI ON FEBRUARY 21 AND TO RECEIVE THE BODIES OF THE TWO MARINE GUARDS IN SAIGON ON FEBRUARY 22. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE ASKED UNHCR TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT OF STAFFDEL AND REMAINS OUT OF SAIGON, WHICH MAY PROVE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00396 01 OF 02 170546Z

1. JACQUES CUENOD, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE FOR LAOS, INFORMED US LATE ON FEBRUARY 16 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM UNHCR REP DARRYL NYUN HAN IN HANOI REGARDING LONG-AWAITED TURNOVER OF REMAINS OF TWO MARINE GUARDS

TO MESSRS. DALE DEHAAN AND JERRY TINKER, STAFF
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES.

2. ACCORDING TO HAN'S MESSAGES TO CUENOD, THE STAFFDEL
IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HANOI FROM VIENTIANE ON
AEROFLOT FLIGHT SU-541 EARLY MORNING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY
21. (CONTRARY TO PUBLISHED TIMETABLES, THIS FLIGHT
NORMALLY DEPARTS VIENTIANE AT 0800 LOCAL AND ARRIVES HANOI AT
0910.) THE VIETNAMESE WILL TRANSPORT STAFFDEL AND HAN TO
SAIGON (WHETHER LATER ON FEBRUARY 21 OR EARLY ON MORNING
OF FEBRUARY 22 IS NOT CLEAR). THE REMAINS ARE TO BE HANDED
OVER IN A MID-DAY CEREMONY AT TAN SON NHUT, AFTER WHICH
UNHCR IS ASKED TO TRANSPORT REMAINS, STAFFDEL AND HAN
OUT OF SAIGON. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE EVIDENTLY NOT
SPECIFIED A DESTINATION, ALTHOUGH BANGKOK IS THE NEAREST.
HOWEVER, QUESTION OF WHAT AIRCRAFT UNHCR SHOULD CHARTER FOR
THE PURPOSE IS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED, AS DISCUSSED BELOW.

3. FROM REF B IT APPEARS THAT VIETNAMESE HAVE ALREADY
COMMUNICATED BASIC INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO STAFFDEL.

4. AT HAN'S SUGGESTION, UNHCR/VIENTIANE HAS ALREADY
RESERVED TWO SEATS ON THE ABOVE-MENTIONED AEROFLOT FLIGHT
FROM VIENTIANE TO HANOI FEBRUARY 21, SINCE SPACE ON THIS
FLIGHT IS OFTEN HARD TO OBTAIN. SEATS ARE IN NAME OF
HAN AND HIS WIFE BUT ARE FOR USE OF STAFFDEL IF BOOKING
CANNOT BE MADE IN PARIS. (HAN WILL MEET STAFFDEL IN HANOI,
ACCOMPANY THEM TO SAIGON AND TO ONWARD DESTINATION, AND
RETURN TO HANOI FEBRUARY 25.)

5. PROBLEM OF SUITABLE AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHT INTO SAIGON
AND BACK OUT, AS SEEN BY UNHCR HERE, IS CREATED BY SEVERAL
FACTORS. AIR LAO (FORMERLY ROYAL AIR LAO), THE
LAO "INTERNATIONAL" CARRIER, OWES MONEY TO THAI DIRECTORATE OF
CIVIL AVIATION AND PROBABLY CANNOT BE INDUCED TO TAKE ANY
OF ITS AIRCRAFT INTO THAILAND FOR FEAR OF IMPOUNDMENT. (AIR
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00396 01 OF 02 170546Z

LAO IS BELIEVED NOT TO BE OPERATING ANY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS AT
PRESENT.) THE NEW LAO AVIATION, THE DOMESTIC CARRIER, HAS YET
TO NEGOTIATE LANDING RIGHTS IN THAILAND AND AS A RESULT MIGHT
NOT BE PERMITTED TO LAND THERE OR MIGHT HAVE ITS AIRCRAFT
CONFUSED WITH AIR LAO'S AND IMPOUNDED. THE AIR FRANCE CAR-
AVELLE IS STILL MAKING FIVE ROUND TRIPS PER WEEK BETWEEN BANGKOK
AND SAIGON, BUT A SPECIAL SUNDAY FREQUENCY WOULD PROBABLY
REQUIRE GOV AUTHORIZATION. AND IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE
VIETNAMESE WOULD ACCEPT A THAI CARRIER EVEN UNDER UNHCR
CHARTER.

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIA, REPATRIATION, PFOR, VS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00396
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760058-0573
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197602103/baaaerma.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF MARINE BODIES FROM VIET-NAM/STAFFDEL
TAGS: CASC, OREP, PFOR, CDES, US, VS, UNHCR, (KENNEDY, EDWARD M), (DEHAAN, DALE), (TINKER, JERRY)
To: STATE NIACT
BANGKOK
PARIS INFO JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI
JCS
SECDEF
CINCPAC

NEW DELHI
BOMBAY
HONG KONG
GENEVA

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006